



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & DIVERSITY POLICY

Version 5

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## CONTENTS

CLAUSES	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
1.	EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & DIVERSITY POLICY.....	1
2.	SIGNATURE .....	2

## 1. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & DIVERSITY POLICY

M.V. Kelly Limited is a civil engineering and building company specialising in infrastructure, groundworks and associated services. The Company is an equal opportunities employer, committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion among our workforce, and eliminating unlawful discrimination. The company, through the course of our operations is also committed against unlawful discrimination of clients, customers or the public.

The policy's purpose is to:

- provide equality, fairness and respect for all in our employment, whether temporary, part-time or full-time
- not unlawfully discriminate because of the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation
- oppose and avoid all forms of unlawful discrimination. This includes in pay and benefits, terms and conditions of employment, dealing with grievances and discipline, dismissal, redundancy, leave for parents, requests for flexible working, and selection for employment, promotion, training or other developmental opportunities

The organisation commits to:

- Encourage equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace as they are good practice and make business sense
- Create a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued.

This commitment includes training managers and all other employees about their rights and responsibilities under the equality, diversity and inclusion policy. Responsibilities include staff conducting themselves to help the company provide equal opportunities in employment, and prevent bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination.

All staff should understand they, as well as their employer, can be held liable for acts of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, in the course of their employment, against fellow employees, customers, suppliers and the public

- Take seriously complaints of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination by fellow employees, customers, suppliers, visitors, the public and any others in the course of the company's work activities.

Such acts will be dealt with as misconduct under the organisation's grievance and/or disciplinary procedures, and appropriate action will be taken. Particularly serious complaints could amount to gross misconduct and lead to dismissal without notice.

Further, sexual harassment may amount to both an employment rights matter and a criminal matter, such as in sexual assault allegations. In addition, harassment under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 – which is not limited to circumstances where harassment relates to a protected characteristic – is a criminal offence.

- Make opportunities for training, development and progress available to all staff, who will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential, so their talents and resources can be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the organisation.
- Decisions concerning staff being based on merit (apart from in any necessary and limited exemptions and exceptions allowed under the Equality Act).
- Review employment practices and procedures when necessary to ensure fairness, and also update them and the policy to take account of changes in the law.

The equality, diversity and inclusion policy is fully supported by senior management.

Details of the company's grievance and disciplinary policies and procedures can be found in the Employee Handbook.

Use of the company's grievance and/or disciplinary procedures does not affect an employee's right to make a claim to an employment tribunal within three months of the alleged discrimination.

## 2. SIGNATURE

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Julie Kelly', written in black ink.

Name & Position; Julie Kelly – Human Resources Director

Date; 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020